

Senate Resolution 686

By: Senator James of the 28th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Brenda Joyce Davenport; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Brenda Joyce Davenport is an outstanding community leader and foot soldier
3 working for civil and human rights with a long history of nurturing and advocating for the
4 critical issues facing African American youth and the community; and

5 WHEREAS, the youngest daughter of Bernard and Dorothy Davenport, Brenda is a lifelong
6 member of Ebenezer Baptist Church, where she was baptized by Reverend Martin Luther
7 King, Jr.; and

8 WHEREAS, she graduated from Booker T. Washington High School, Atlanta's first public
9 high school for African Americans, and later matriculated at Shaw University in Raleigh,
10 North Carolina, at age 16; and

11 WHEREAS, at Shaw University, she participated in several demonstrations with the freedom
12 fighter and campus organizer Willie Ricks "Mukasa," and was a proud member of the
13 esteemed Beta Theta chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., as well as the Student
14 Government Association and the UNCF Pre-Alumni Association; and

15 WHEREAS, Brenda spent an impressive 30 years with the Southern Christian Leadership
16 Conference (SCLC), taking on several roles to advance causes important to African
17 Americans, especially children and youth; and

18 WHEREAS, during her tenure, she established hundreds of youth voter registration
19 campaigns and youth nonviolence training; and

20 WHEREAS, Brenda assisted in organizing the National Voter Rights March, the first
21 reenactment of the Selma to Montgomery March, and has provided countless opportunities
22 for youth to travel both nationally and internationally to experience historic events,
23 reenactments, celebrations, marches, and speeches; and

24 WHEREAS, appointed by Dr. Joseph Lowery, she became the youngest person to serve on
25 the SCLC's National Board of Directors, where she worked alongside notable Civil Rights
26 figures such as Representative Walter Fauntroy, Mrs. Rosa Parks, Mrs. Johnnie Carr, Mrs.
27 Coretta Scott King, Mrs. Evelyn Lowery, and Mr. Dick Gregory, among others; and

28 WHEREAS, Brenda played a key organizational role alongside SCLC leaders such as Dr.
29 Joseph Lowery, Rev. E. Randel T. Osburn, Rev. Fred D. Taylor, Frederick Moore, and Ralph
30 Worrell; was a key organizer of the Gun Buy Back - Stop the Violence Campaigns, which
31 collected thousands of guns off the streets; and was instrumental in anti-apartheid campaigns
32 on college campuses during the time of the South Africa Anti-Apartheid Movement; and

33 WHEREAS, her community outreach expands to civic and religious institutions as the
34 founder and CEO of the Rosa Parks Consortium, director of the Children's Ministry at the
35 historic Ebenezer Baptist Church, board member of the A. D. King Foundation, and Atlanta
36 coordinator for The Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self-Development; and

37 WHEREAS, in recognition of her exemplary leadership and service, Brenda has received
38 several awards, including those from the TRIO program at Morris Brown College, The King
39 Center Community Service Award, the Outstanding Leadership Award from the A. D.
40 Williams King Chapel for Children at the Ebenezer Baptist Church, the Outstanding Women
41 of America and Operation PUSH, and the Community Service Award from the Atlanta
42 Alumna Chapter of Bennett College; and

43 WHEREAS, she was honored by the distinguished Atlanta Chapter of 100 Black Women
44 with the Unsung Heroine award and was recognized as part of the Georgia Women's
45 Legislative Caucus Yellow Rose Servant Leader Award; and

46 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper to honor the outstanding accomplishments
47 of this esteemed Georgian.

48 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
49 recognize and commend Brenda Joyce Davenport for her unwavering commitment to civil
50 rights in the State of Georgia and extend best wishes for her continued health and happiness.

51 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
52 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Brenda Joyce
53 Davenport.